

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 15, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair
Councillor Patrick Murphy
Mr. Friedemann Brauer
Mr. Peter Williams
Ms. Candace Stevenson
Mr. William Webster
Ms. Laena Garrison
Mr. Leslie Dubinsky

REGRETS: Councillor Jim Smith
Ms. Heather Deighan
Mr. Ward Skinner, Vice Chair

STAFF: Mr. Greg Rice, Design Engineer, Design and Construction Services
Ms. Roxane MacInnis, TDM Planner, Regional Planning
Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, TDM Coordinator, TPW
Ms. Maria Jacobs, Regional Trails Planner, Regional Planning
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator, Real Property
Ms. Christina Sears, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | Call to Order | 3 |
| 2. | Approval of Minutes - February 7, 2007 | 3 |
| 3. | Approval of the Order of Business - Additions /Deletions | 3 |
| 4. | Business Arising Out of the Minutes | 3 |
| 4.1 | Terms of Reference for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee- Roxane MacInnis | 3 |
| 4.2 | Proposed Bikeways Improvements to ALM Bridge- Roddy MacIntyre | 6 |
| 5. | Consideration of Deferred Business - None | 6 |
| 6. | Reports - None | 6 |
| 7. | Added Items | 6 |
| 7.1 | Visiting Lecturer | |
| 7.2 | NS Cycling Summit | |
| 7.3 | Bike Week Update/Insurance | 7 |
| 8. | Next Meeting Date | 7 |
| 9. | Adjournment | 7 |

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. in the Media Room, 1st Floor, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Friedemann Brauer referred to his comments on page five (5), under item *4.3 ALM Bridge Connection Presentation*, of the February 7, 2007 minutes and requested they be amended as follows:

“Mr. Friedemann Brauer commented that the safe and smooth integration of cyclists into the traffic is missing from the current bridge connections. For example, if the lane was marked clearly, motorists at the stop sign on North Street would have to yield to cyclists coming off the bridge. He noted concern with regard to the amount of money proposed for this project, when there are simpler solutions available for the proper integration of cycling traffic at both ends of the bridge.”

MOVED BY Mr. Friedemann Brauer, seconded by Mr. William Webster, that the minutes of February 7, 2007 be approved amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

- 7.1 Visiting Lecturer
- 7.2 NS Cycling Summit
- 7.3 Bike Week Update/Insurance

MOVED BY Ms. Candace Stevenson, seconded by Ms. Laena Garrison, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Terms of Reference for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee- Roxane MacInnis

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator, provided information to the Committee noting the following:

- Changes by the HRM Regional Trails Staff to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference are indicated in bold;

- The Trails Staff thought the mandate could be larger than just talking about the Capital Budget as it relates. They advised Council on the matters, issues and concerns regarding Active Transportation in Halifax Regional Municipality.
- The Trails Committee will promote Active Transportation with Community development focus.
- The Committee will work with Federal, Provincial, Municipal and community stakeholders to make Active Transportation available to all HRM residents.
- The Committee will plan and implement Annual Bike Week and International Trails Day events.

The Committee requested a definition of Active Transportation from staff.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis, TDM Planner, Regional Planning, defined Active Transportation as any mode that is self propelled: cycling, walking, jogging, running, manual wheelchairs, paddling, strollers, skateboarding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, etc that uses the on and off-road network.

The Committee agreed that a definition should be included in the Terms of Reference

Ms. Maria Jacobs, Planner, Regional Planning, advised the Committee that she met with Ms. Dee Milne in Procurement, who indicated to Ms. Jacobs that she wasn't clear that Bike Week was a sub-committee of Bikeways Advisory Committee. She requested a clear mandate for the Bike Week Committee noting the current mandate is quite explicit. This needs to be clarified so that HRM can report to their insurers and have the events that are approved by Bike Week included under the insurance policy. Ms Jacobs noted individuals who wish to participate in Bike Week but are blocked due to insurance reasons. She requested a clear explanation in the Active Transportation Committee mandate relative to the Bike Week sub-committee.

Ms. MacInnis suggested holding an Active Transportation Week rather than Bike Week as the numbers have been up and down for Bike Week. She noted perhaps this change would draw a larger crowd. She suggested analyzing the numbers for this year's Bike Week and compare them to the numbers from previous years.

The Committee expressed concern with losing focus on bikes and whether or not the public would know the full definition of Active Transportation. They suggested there should be two separate events: Bike Week and Active Transportation Week.

The Chair noted that there are a number of initiatives that relate to Active Transportation over which the Committee would be expected to provide some guidance and direction.

Clarification was provided to the Committee concerning the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, staff noted the following:

- The Active Transportation Advisory Committee will replace the current Terms of Reference.
- Bikeways Advisory Committee is the only committee that is being replaced by the Active Transportation Advisory Committee
- The Trails Committee will not be replaced by the new Active Transportation Committee
- The Trails Committee is made up of twenty (20) community groups that build trails all over the Municipality and work on these trails in the construction process while managing and maintaining them.
- The five (5) members of public at large shall be chosen in such a way to include youth and senior members on this committee.
- A provision will be made with requirements to a quorum for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee as per the Administrative Order to Council. Members of the Committee request quorum be reduced to six (6) rather than eight (8).

Ms. Laena Garrison expressed concern respecting commitment by staff and volunteers to the Committee. She noted members sending regrets on a continual basis is not acceptable.

Ms. Garrison would like to see policy included in item 1.1 and definitions of 'Active Transportation' and 'Community Development Focus' in the Active Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. MacInnis advised:

- The cycling component of Active Transportation is smaller than the pedestrian component;
- 41% of residents within HRM walk to work;
- 3% cycle along the Peninsula; however, on a larger scale only 1.5% cycle throughout HRM

The Chair noted that as a Committee, they are not making Active Transportation available. The Committee is in place to assist staff and council, providing advice on exercises and lobbying efforts. She would like to clarify misconceptions before requesting Regional Council endorse the Terms of Reference for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. When the Bikeways Advisory Committee was formed, it was designed to discuss bicycle transportation not recreational cycling, although it dovetails in a lot of ways. The Chair noted the same thought should be given when discussing Active Transportation, looking at both transportation and recreational issues thoroughly. A careful look should be given to the entire range of physical activity, that is different than looking at Active Transportation.

Ms. MacInnis noted that a recreation group has been looking at ways of supporting active recreation and were very supportive of the Active Transportation Plan. She advised that it's been made very clear the Active Transportation Plan is an Origin Destination Plan, therefore it's transportation orientated with a recreation spinoff using the same infrastructure.

The Chair indicated that it is something that should be specified in the Terms of Reference for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee to avoid any confusion.

Ms. MacInnis advised she would include how the different methods of Active Transportation dovetail for transportation purposes in the mandate. She offered to provide a summary of the Active Transportation Plan to the Committee.

The Chair suggested that the items that were discussed at the meeting, go back to staff and become refined as a full document, coming back to the Committee again before going to Regional Council.

The Chair responded to questions concerning regrets from meetings. She indicated that absenteeism would be monitored and if you are aware ahead of time that you are unable to attend a meeting, please advise the Legislative Assistant prior to the meeting.

4.2 Proposed Bikeways Improvements to ALM Bridge- Roddy MacIntyre

Mr. Roddy MacIntyre presented the Proposed Bikeways Improvements to ALM Bridge - Halifax exit to the Committee, answering questions and noting the following:

- Under the Motor Vehicle Act they are unable to bring the two way bike way down to the point that it puts the cyclist against traffic flow;
- They have the option to extend the existing bike lane to the end and extend the rail;
- A traffic stop or yield sign would need to be installed at the end of the bike lane. The bikeway would end one panel back in order to allow the cyclist to dismount and legally cross onto Barrington Street;
- There is an issue remaining with the crosswalk at the end of the path as cyclists cannot drive through a crosswalk. They have the option of extending the lane to the crosswalk for bike access only;
- He would check with staff to see if the bus stop on Barrington Street is still in use.

Directionality and access was discussed. Discussion ensued among committee members and the following comments were noted:

- Cyclists need to be recognized as traffic. The exit from the bridge needs to be properly tied in for cyclists as they cannot be left to ride on a sidewalk;
- Motorists aren't aware of the area and do not expect the cyclists, caution signs should be extended down the roadway.

- The extension of the rails and caution signs are a great idea;

MOVED by Mr. Friedemann Brauer, seconded by Ms. Laena Garrison, that staff investigate the Proposed Bikeways Improvements to Angus L. MacDonald Bridge as discussed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. MacIntyre advised he will attend the next meeting and update the Committee with his findings.

Mr. Roddy MacIntyre presented the Proposed Bikeways Improvements to ALM Bridge - Dartmouth exit, discussion ensued among the Committee and the following was noted:

- Some members would like to see a bike lane inside of the sidewalk along Wyse Road. Mr. MacIntyre noted that after improvements and renovations he feels there will not be enough room. The sidewalks require a three (3) metre minimum and just under two (2) metres for pedestrians;
- The Committee would like to see bike lanes that would connect to a road, not the sidewalk. They agree to like the exit the way it is now but would prefer to see some improvements.

The Chair advised she would like Mr. MacIntyre to bring a proposal back to the Committee with alternatives on the North side of the Dartmouth side of the Angus L. MacDonald Bridge, including a project, a budget and a design.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. REPORTS - NONE

7. ADDED ITEMS

7.1 Visiting Lecturer/NS Cycling Summit

Ms. Garrison advised the Committee that on April 21, 2007 there will be a Nova Scotia Cycling Summit held in Eureka, Nova Scotia. The registration fee is twenty dollars. You can obtain more information at www.ecologyaction.ca/trax. She noted the intent of the Summit is to create recommendations for changes to policy and budget; putting cycling on the map in Nova Scotia. They will also be taking a look at route verte systems in Nova Scotia. There will be a 60km route and will include rural routes.

Ms. Garrison advised the Committee of a guest speaker attending the Summit by the name of Marc Panneton. Mr. Panneton works for Transport Quebec as the Cycling Coordinator.

Transport Quebec has invested one hundred and twenty million dollars on cycling routes and are forecasting one hundred and fifty million in route fare users. Mr. Panneton has indicated to Ms. Garrison he is basing his stay in Halifax on interest and would be willing to make a presentation to the Bikeways Advisory Committee.

Discussion ensued among Committee members. The Committee agreed that it would be a great idea to hold a public presentation in Halifax Hall, City Hall on April 23, 2007. Ms. MacInnis advised she would look into sponsorship from HRM including, advertising, handouts and refreshments.

Mr. Peter Williams volunteered to represent the Bikeways Advisory Committee at the Summit and Ms. Garrison noted she will be representing TRAX.

7.2 Bike Week Update/Insurance

The Chair advised the Committee that she had received an email from Ms. Dee Milne, Procurement, HRM and noted she will be getting back to her with a response.

Councillor Fougere requested ideas from the Committee surrounding Bike Week. She advised she would be sending out a letter to the Committee members for Bike Week.

This matter was deferred until the next meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Bikeways Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, April 23, 2007.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Christina Sears
Legislative Assistant

